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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE PATENT APPLICATION OF:

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U.S. SERIAL NO: UNKNOWN

GROUP: UNKNOWN

FILED: CONCURRENTLY

EXAMINER: UNKNOWN

FOR: MANUFACTURING AND TESTING
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

La Crosse, Wisconsin
December 22, 2000

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

To comply with applicant's duty of disclosure, applicant encloses and discusses copies of the following patents.

U.S. Patent 5,065,813 to Berkeley et al. is directed to an electronic thermostat with installation assistance. The thermostat communicates with an installer through an audio or visual display and keypad to instruct the installer to perform tasks and enter observations. The thermostat requires entry of coded indicia representing operator observed conditions in the system in response to displayed instructions carried out by the operator. In one embodiment, the installer is only required to connect wires to the thermostat terminals one at a time and a thermostat will reconfigure its internal connection path to ensure proper control of the system.

American Standard's U.S. Patent 5,276,630 to Baldwin et al. is directed to a self configuring controller which constantly establishes the validity of each of a plurality of input devices and reconfigures the mode of operation of the HVAC system each time the validity of an input device changes.

U.S. Patent 5,361,985 to Rein et al. is directed to a setup tool for a wireless communication system. The patent proposes a two tier wireless communication system for an air distribution system using a hard wired communications bus as the first tier and a wireless communications scheme as the second tier. A setup tool programs the wireless communication system using wireless communications.

U.S. Patent 5,444,644 to Divjak is directed to an auto configured instrumentation interface. During installation and/or initialization of a data acquisition system, a microprocessor automatically determines the type of input/output devices that are connected to a systems inputs through a systematic analysis of the characteristics of the connected device or devices, and provides the proper input or output to each of the connected devices. Carrying out the systematic analysis, the microprocessor causes each connected input device to be energized in a predetermined sequence while monitoring the output of a voltage monitor and a current monitor to identify the device as a voltage input or current input type device, a voltage output or a current output type device, or a resistance type device. The systematic analysis is carried out in a pre-established sequence of steps.

U.S. Patent 5,446,677 to Jensen et al. is directed to a diagnostic system for use in an environmental control network. Specifically, it is directed to a diagnostic system for testing dampers or controllers utilized in an environment controlled network.

U.S. Patent 5,467,285 to Flinn et al. is directed to optimizing material movement within a computer based manufacturing system. It is directed to a transport matrix having multiple rows and columns each associated with a work station within a computer based manufacturing system. An analysis of the transport matrix is utilized to determine an optimal route for transporting material between selected work stations.

U.S. Patent 5,499,510 to Yoshida et al. is directed to an address setting method for an air conditioning system. An automatic address setting operation is started when a user pushes a switch 18 on any one of the outdoor units. This outdoor unit sets its own address 1-0 and also transmits a random address generation request to the other outdoor and indoor units via communications line 22. At this time, the addresses of these other units are all 0-0. Each unit receives the random address generation request message and generates a random value and sets the random value as its own address and transmits this randomly set address to the unit having the address 1-0. The addresses are then collated and checked to see if there are a plurality of identical addresses.

U.S. Patent 5,603,225 to Tobi et al. is similar to the Yoshida et al. patent in that it is directed to an address setting method. In the Tobi et al. patent, a dummy address is set from an exterior device to an interior device which determines whether it is operating in a designated operation mode. If the interior device is operating in the designated mode, the dummy address is set as an actual address and subsequently sent back to the exterior device in response to an address request signal.

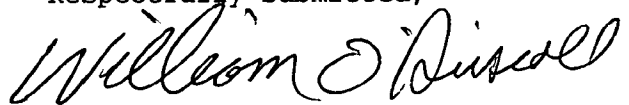
U.S. Patent 5,754,767 to Ruiz is directed to a method for automatically determining the physical location of devices on a bus network control system. A mapper 70 generates a physical location map for devices 60 by first broadcasting instructions over a network for a selected device to sever its network connection for a predefined period of time. The mapper then queries the network for each device to return its node address and uses this information to generate a physical locations table.

U.S. Patent 5,831,848 to Rielly et al. is directed to a distributed environmental process control system including a primary network 101 of nodes 103 and a plurality of branch networks 105 controlled by a node 103 on the primary network. The primary network may form a building wide communications system while each branch network serves as a subsystem for a room, small area or laboratory. The system

of networks interconnects the primary network nodes on a peer-to-peer basis, while each primary node controls a branch network in a master slave relationship with a plurality of device controllers 107 such an air flow valve controller.

The foregoing are submitted solely to fully comply with applicant's duty of disclosure and are not considered to be particularly relevant to the claimed invention.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William O'Driscoll". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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